

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status and Amendments

Claims 14-32 were pending in this application when last examined. Claims 22-26 stand rejected. Claims 14-21 and 27-32 were withdrawn as non-elected subject matter.

As indicated on pages 4-5 of the Office Action, claims 23-25 were objected to for depending on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 23-25 to independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, claims 23-25 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 22, 26, and 28-32 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or divisional application on any cancelled subject matter.

It should be noted that the claims, by way of the preliminary amendment filed March 18, 2005, erroneously contain two claims numbered 28, both of which contain withdrawn subject matter. To correct this error, Applicants have cancelled claims

28-32 and added new claims 33 and 34 which correspond to the withdrawn subject matter of the erroneously numbered claims 28.

Applicants have also amended the remaining withdrawn claims to depend on the allowable subject matter. Since the elected claims are drawn to the allowable subject matter, please consider the possibility of rejoinder of the non-elected subject matter of the withdrawn claims per U.S. rejoinder practice (See M.P.E.P. § 821.04).

Claims 14-27 and 33-34 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected for not referencing the continuation data at page 1 for the reasons in item 5 on page 3 of the Office Action. The present amendment overcomes this concern by amending the specification, where appropriate, to include section headings and to conform to U.S. practice. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is solicited.

Indefiniteness Rejection

Claims 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons on page 3 of the Office Action. It is believed that the present amendment overcomes this rejection. Again, Applicants have amended claims 23-25 to independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as suggested by the

Examiner. Claim 22 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 23-25 should now be in condition for allowance.

Prior Art Rejections

Claim 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tisza et al. for the reasons on pages 3-4. Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Fuchs et al. for the reasons on page 4.

For the sole purpose of expediting prosecution and not to acquiesce to the rejection, claims 22 and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Thus, the present amendment renders the rejections moot.

Conclusion

Having addressed all the outstanding issues, the amendment is believed to be fully responsive. Again, Applicants have amended claims 23-25 to the allowable subject matter as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, claims 23-25 should now be in condition for allowance. Applicants are requesting rejoinder of the non-elected invention. It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Jay F. Williams/

Jay F. Williams, Reg. No. 48,036
Customer No. 00466
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

JFW/ml